

Q. # 1153

Extracts from interrogation of General Hideki TOJO
11 February 1946, PP. 2-3, 4,5

/pp. 2-3/

Q Who presided at the Imperial Conference of December 1st or 2nd, 1941?

A I did, as Prime Minister. The others were seated down both sides of the table in accordance with their court rank.

Q Did you state the purpose of the meeting or was it known by them before they came to the meeting?

A Of course I explained the purpose of the meeting at the very first. After I had explained the purpose of the meeting, each of the ministers and the two Chiefs of Staff discussed the question from the standpoint of his own responsibilities.

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/pp. 4/

Q Did you feel, at the time the KONOYE Cabinet fell on or about 17 October 1941, that war should be declared against the United States and the other three nations?

A At that time I felt, as War Minister, that the opportune time for fighting was in danger of being lost and the Imperial Conference had set the middle ten days of October as the limit for waiting for a favorable diplomatic break.

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/pp. 5/

Q Was it not because of the fact that you, as War Minister, favored war with the United States that the KONOYE Cabinet fell on or about 17 October 1941?

A Theoretically, yes. KONOYE thought that a diplomatic solution was still possible if Japan would withdraw troops from China, but the Army felt that there would be no guarantee that the unlawful acts of the Chinese, which had caused the Incident, would not be resumed if the troops were withdrawn before their purpose had been achieved, and the Army could not bear to so withdraw the troops.

一九四六年二月十一日東條英機ニ對スル訊問ヨリノ拔萃

二一三、四、五頁

2501A-1

問、昭和十六年十二月一日カ二日ノ御前會議ハ誰
ガ主宰シマシタカ

答、總理大臣トシテ私が致シマシタ。他ノ人々ハ
「テーブル」ノ兩側ニ官中席次ニ從ヒ席ヲ占
メテ居リマシタ。

問、會議ノ目的ヲ貴方ハ述ベテレタカ。又ハ會議
ニ出ル前ニ官席者ニ知ラレテ居リマシタカ。

答、勿論、私が最初ニ會議ノ目的ヲ説明シマシタ。
コノ説明ノ後各大臣並ニ兩總長ハ各自ノ責任
ノ立場カラ問題ヲ論議シマシタ。

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「第四頁」

問、昭和十六年十月十七日カ或ハ其頃近衛内閣ガ
倒レタ時、貴方ハ米國及ビ他ノ三ヶ國ニ對シ
戦争ヲ宣言シタケレバナシナイト感ジマシタ
カ。

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2501A-2

答、陸軍大臣トシテ當時私ハ露戰ノ好機ヲ失フ危
險ガアル事ヲ憂ジマシタ。而シテ御前會議ヘ
好都合ナ外交的打歸ヲ待ツニ十月中旬ヲ限度
ト決定シテ居リマシタ。

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「第五頁」

問、昭和十六年十月十七日又ハ其頃近衛内閣ガ例
レタノハ陸相タル貴方ガ米國ト戰争ヲスル方
ガ良イト言ツタ事實ニ因ツタノデハアリマセ
ンデシタカ。

答、理論的ニハサウデス。近衛ハ日本ガ若シ中國
カラ撤兵スルナラバ、外交的解決ハマダ可能
ナリト考ヘタ。然シ乍ラ若シ日本軍ガ目的ヲ
果ス前ニ撤兵シタナラバ中國人ノ不法行爲ヲ
ソレガコノ事變ヲ惹起シタノダガ、ソレヲ繼
續シナイトイフ保障ガナイト陸軍ヘ思ヒ、ソ
ノマ、撤兵スル事が忍ビラレマセンデシタ。